

THE RISE THE RISE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION THE RISE

Vol. II, No. 2, October 1961

Dear Colleague:

"The education of our people should be a lifelong process by which we continue to feed new vigor into the lifestream of the nation through intelligent, reasoned decisions. Let us not think of education only in terms of its costs, but rather in terms of the infinite potential of the human mind that can be realized through education. Let us think of education as a means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Quotation from
President John F. Kennedy's proclamation
designating November 5 through November 11,
1961, as American Education Week.

With the first session of the 87th Congress coming to a close, it's time to make a legislative assessment. While general aid to education legislation did not fare well - only aid to impacted areas and the National Defense Education Act were re-enacted - legislation relating to adult education did surprisingly well. The area Redevelopment Act which, among its many provisions, makes possible the occupational training and retraining of employed workers in depressed areas, was among the first items of legislation to be passed and go to the President for signature.... The "Practical Nurses' Training Act of 1961" authorized appropriations up to five million dollars over an eight-year period to states with plans for practical nurses' training "The Migrant Agricultural Employment Adult Education Act" passed the Senate and will be considered by the House at its second session. The same status applies to the "Manpower Development and Training Act of 1961" providing for training and retraining of persons made unemployable by automation and technological developments.

A complete report on this and other legislation will appear in the first issue of the 1961-62 series of "Legislative Reports" issued by the Division of Adult Education Service under the editorship of Tom McLernon, assistant director. Although prepared primarily for individuals concerned with general education legislation, the legislative report is sent as a bonus service to all Active Members of NAPSAC.

In addition to the legislative reporting service, the Division is expanding its services further by maintaining an informal job referral service. Although no attempt is made to run a placement bureau, Tom McLernon has developed a much-used, information-referral service of jobs open and of persons seeking positions. Interested individuals are invited to write to Mr. McLernon. The Division also has recently published "Selected References on Adult Education." This bibliography lists 680 entries under a dozen or more general headings. Copies are available from the Division for 50¢.



NAPSAE has always had a surprise or two up its sleeve at the annual conference. This year the surprise (at the NAPSAE banquet) will be a unique souvenir at each plate. Francis Gregory, chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee, isn't saying much more about it now except that it is honestly a rare collector's item that NAPSAE conference-goers long will treasure.

Another highlight of the NAPSAE conference banquet will be the variety and interest brought to the meeting by students from the District of Columbia's famed "Americanization School." Adult students from the school, dressed in native costume, will be seated at the dinner tables throughout the banquet hall.

The speaker at the banquet session will be William G. Carr, executive secretary of the NEA. As chief administrative officer of the largest professional association in the world (and director general of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession), Dr. Carr will carry forward the theme of the conference by talking about the role of adult educators within the total educational profession in helping keep American citizens -- irrespective of their age -- abreast of change.

And, oh yes ... back to surprises! At the very close of the banquet session, there will be a brief photographic report of conference candids. Using the very latest photographic techniques, the report will actually include pictures of ----- . Sorry, Carl Purcell, the NEA's photographer, says that we can't give this surprise away either.

At the special Teachers Day meeting on November 11, Ewald Turner, president of the National Education Association, will be the honored guest and speak briefly at the luncheon. (Price of the lunch? \$2.00!) Morning and afternoon sessions of Teachers Day will be work sessions, under the direction of Dr. Leland P. Bradford, director of the National Training Laboratories, on how learning takes place.

If you want additional advance information about any aspect of the conference (including the "Adventures in Dining" feature on Thursday evening), drop Jack Parker, NAPSAE's assistant executive secretary, a card and he will make sure you get the information you need ... unless it's a secret.

If the question you have is how do you raise the carfare to get to Washington - we suggest you do not write to Jack, but rather go in and knock on the superintendent's door. The substantive concerns of the conference (highlighted in last month's issue of Pulse) will be extremely timely and will effectively assist local directors in improving the local program.

Members of the publications committee are not completely pleased with the response to FOCUS, NAPSAE's first yearbook. The comments received have been so uniformly favorable that the committee is without a reservoir of strong and helpful suggestions for changes and improvements of the second yearbook. Jim Proctor, chairman of the committee responsible for the 1962 yearbook, is eager to have suggestions for changes or improvements. Comments of this kind may be sent either to Mr. James Proctor, supervisor, Vocational Education for Adults, Department of Education, 3 East 25th Street, Baltimore 18, Md., or to the NAPSAE staff.

Incidentally, a small overprinting of FOCUS was ordered and copies are available at \$2.00 each to members (\$5.00 to non-members) wishing additional copies. We think that, as the first and only yearbook in the field of public school adult education, FOCUS will increasingly become a valuable professional tool. We suggest you look into the possibility of interesting both the public librarian and the individual in charge of your own school's professional library in making certain that copies of this first yearbook are on hand.

The opening of the school year always provides an unusually good opportunity for directors of adult education to make a splash in the daily newspapers. Among the special adult education features that have come to our attention this year are the "Adult Education Section" of the Buffalo Courier Express, which was published on September 1 September in Milwaukee is "Adult Education Month" and on August 27 both the Milwaukee Journal and the Milwaukee Sentinel had special sections relating to adult education....In Santa Barbara (Calif.), the News-Press carried a special adult education feature on August 29....In San Jose (Calif.), for the fourth consecutive year, the San Jose Mercury News devoted the editorial page on the Sunday preceding school opening to an editorial about adult education. The heading of the editorial was "S.J. Adult Center Offerings 'Exalt' Man in Knowledge." The first of September was also "Adult Education Week" in Cincinnati and both the daily newspapers there carried a number of feature stories on adult education....As usual, the Flint (Mich.) Journal carried, as a special insert, a complete catalog of the adult education programs offered by the Flint Public Schools, as did the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times and the San Francisco Progress.

NAMES IN THE NEWS --- A feature of the October NEA Journal is "The Teaching and Practice of Politics." The special section begins with an article by President John F. Kennedy and closes with one on "Purposeful Education for Adults" written by Arthur P. Crabtree, head of the Civic Education Department of the Bureau of Adult Education in New York State. Between these is a series of articles on ways of involving readers in the practice of responsible civic participation. Governor Farris Bryant of Florida and key members of his staff have participated in the civil defense training classes offered by the public schools. The personal involvement of the Governor in the program has created a demand for civil defense training in the state far beyond the ability of the schools to cope with it.... Robert E. Sharer, associate professor and assistant to the director of the Continuing Education Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, has been named president-elect of the Adult Education Association of the U.S.A. This year, Ambrose Caliver, of the U.S. Office of Education, is president.

The next New York World's Fair is only three - or four - years away - depending upon when you plan to visit it. For members of NAPSAE's Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, however, the Fair is practically just around the corner. How will adult education be represented at the Fair and what role will public schools have in telling the story? These are some of the elements of planning confronting the NAPSAE Board of Directors. At the Fair, the Hall of Education will tell the story of American education - its past, present, and, primarily, its direction toward the future. Anticipated attendance at the Hall of Education will be drawn from a potential of 100-million World's Fair visitors. Suggestions as to how adult education may best be presented at a World's Fair may be sent to any member of the NAPSAE Board of Directors.

As to those 1960 Census statistics on educational attainment....not yet ready. The latest word has it that they will be coming out on a state-by-state basis between now and January. We will keep NAPSAE members advised.

Television, as a means of carrying educational programs to the community, is rapidly expanding each year. A number of new developments mark the opening of school this year. In September, the much-heralded and long-delayed airborne test of educational TV got underway in six midwestern states. Although designed primarily for supplementary instruction in "day school classrooms," the program has great implications for adult education in the mid-western area...In Kansas City, Mo., the Board of Education approved the use of KCSD-TV for adult education programs during evening hours. The station, operated by the Kansas City School District for classroom instruction, probably will begin televising the evening programs for adults by mid-November...Continental Classroom is continuing again this year and the two-semester course will not be on science, but on "structure and functions of American government."

National Educational Television (NET) has recently established a Department of Program Utilization for the purpose of encouraging the fullest possible interaction among persons watching television programs together. NET is a headquarters and programming agency for 51 affiliated educational TV stations across the nation. The new department will concentrate this fall on stimulating the coordinate utilization of a television series, "An Age of Kings," a paperback book of the same title, and a study guide. The TV shows, the book, and the study guide will form the basis for many kinds of adult education activities. At NAPSAE's suggestion, NET sent information about the program to adult education directors in cities with an NET station. For further information, local directors should address Henry C. Alter, director, Department of Program Utilization, National Educational Television and Radio Center, 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19, N.Y.

A language instruction program in French is being offered to 8,000 fifth and sixth grade youngsters in Denver, Colo. This telecast, beamed to the schools, is televised in the afternoons. In the evening, precisely the same program is offered and families are encouraged to watch it as a unit. Howard Johnson, program director for KMYRA, says that the program already has demonstrated its effectiveness as a means of helping adults become interested in learning along with their children.

The Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.) public schools, representing a total of some 75 thousand students, have established a new educational television station. The new director of the station is Robert C. Glazier, formerly public information director for the Springfield (Mo.) public schools.

A final note. NAPSAE membership is still rising. The grand total now is 5391 members. Of these, 1023 are Active (voting) Members.

Cordially,

Executive Secretary

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